

THE STATE'S BEST HORSE TRAILS. GIDDYUP!

# ARIZONA

HIGHWAYS

ESCAPE • EXPLORE • EXPERIENCE

FEBRUARY 2009

## ICONIC AZ

26 OF ARIZONA'S MOST FAMOUS THINGS ...  
FROM ANTELOPE CANYON TO ZANE GREY

*plus*

OLD SCHOOL  
LODGING  
IN TUCSON

CORNVILLE'S  
HAUTE CUISINE

ONE OF THE  
WORLD'S OLDEST  
EAGLE SCOUTS

A ROAD TRIP TO  
WINE COUNTRY

features

14 ICONIC ARIZONA

The next time you’re in Michigan, Massachusetts or Mozambique, ask the first guy you see about Arizona, and he’ll likely bring up the Grand Canyon or maybe Geronimo. When it comes to icons in this state, the letter “G” is loaded. This month, we feature some of Arizona’s most iconic people, places and things. There’s one for each letter of the alphabet. By Keridwen Cornelius & Kelly Kramer

28 WINTER WHITES

Water is a big deal in Arizona. That’s why Oak Creek’s perennial stream is something special. It’s a respite in the summer, a scenic wonder in the spring and fall, and a photographer’s favorite subject when the snow flies in winter. In this month’s portfolio, our photographer showcases the creek and the surrounding canyon in a way you’ve probably never seen before. “Wow” is the first word that’ll come to mind. By Ralph Lee Hopkins

38 MANE COURSES

Hiking, biking, hot-air ballooning ... there are many ways to explore Arizona’s backcountry. The best, however, might be on the back of a quarter horse, palomino or even Old Paint. Like the scenery itself, the trail riding in this neck of the woods is second-to-none. By Kelly Kramer

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46 HIKE OF THE MONTH Badger Springs Trail: Sightseeing and solitude are the highlights of this hike in the Agua Fria National Monument. The archaeology is an unexpected bonus.

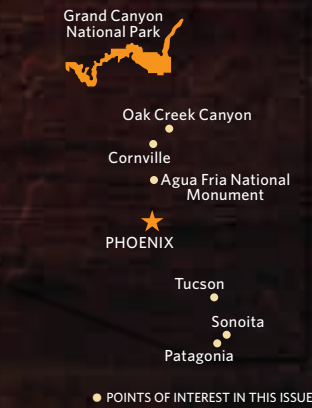
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TALK TO US: In this month’s issue we feature a roundup of some of the state’s best horse trails (see *Mane Courses*, page 38). We’d like to do this story again sometime down the road, and we’d like your input on what trails to include. Shoot us an e-mail at [editor@arizonahighways.com](mailto:editor@arizonahighways.com).

GET MORE ONLINE:

- ✦ The NFL season officially comes to an end this month. You’re going to need something to do, and we’ve got options. For some great ideas, click “Weekend Getaways” on our home page.
- ✦ Get details on some of this month’s biggest events, including the International Film Festival in Sedona, in our “Events Calendar.”
- ✦ Check out some of our vintage covers by visiting “Online Extras.”



► From the Desert View overlook, the setting sun highlights the “layer-cake” strata of the Grand Canyon. PHOTOGRAPH BY GEORGE STOCKING

FRONT COVER Striated sand dunes surround Totem Pole and Yei Bichei rocks in Monument Valley. PHOTOGRAPH BY JERRY JACKA

BACK COVER Fresh snow frosts the trees and banks along the West Fork of Oak Creek. PHOTOGRAPH BY RALPH LEE HOPKINS



Stevie Nicks didn't make our list, but I think she should have. Not because her first name is a variation of my last, and not because of how sexy she looked in the heyday of Fleetwood Mac or on the cover of her *Bella Donna* album. She should have made the list because she's an Arizona icon. Period.

Other than Duane Eddy and Sam Moore, Stevie Nicks is the only Arizonan in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. It's an elite membership. Couple that with the piles of money she's raised for the Arizona Heart Institute, and she ranks right up there. What kept her out of this month's cover story was the first letter of her last name — since we limited ourselves to one icon for each letter of the alphabet, it was either Stevie Nicks or Navajoland, and we couldn't leave out the latter. It was one of many tough calls we had to make while compiling our list. The letter "G" was another one.

Grand Canyon, Geronimo, Barry Goldwater ... when it comes to the seventh letter of the alphabet, Arizona is loaded, which is a good thing, unless you're making a short list. As you'll see, we went with Goldwater. I can't remember all of the arguments, but somebody on the staff said something like: "The Grand Canyon is almost too obvious, and we've done a thousand stories on Geronimo. Let's give it to Goldwater."

Of course, all three G's are iconic in their own way. The same is true of the people, places and things we've selected for the other 25 letters. It's subjective, but we like our list. If you'd like to plead your case for those icons that didn't make the cut (Havasu Falls, Muhammad Ali, the fountain in Fountain Hills ...), we've cleared out plenty of space in our e-mail inbox. But before you fire off a message about the merits of Oak Creek Canyon, check out this month's portfolio.

Over the years, we've featured this scenic wonder in hundreds of photographs. That's because Oak Creek Canyon, like so many places in Arizona, looks very different from one season to the next. In *Winter Whites*, you'll get a glimpse of what it looks like when the snow flies. Stunning, breathtaking, awe-inspiring ... any of those adjectives will work, but "wow" is the first word that'll come to mind. What makes this portfolio even more impressive is that our photographer, Ralph Lee Hopkins, shot the entire thing in a single day, while trudging through 2 feet of snow. It was hard work, and with hindsight, he could have used a horse. Literally.

Whether it's Oak Creek or Cave Creek, Arizona is horse country, and every few

weeks we get a request for a rundown of the state's best horse trails. It took us awhile, but in *Mane Courses*, we'll tell you where to saddle up. There are 12 trails in all, and they're sorted by seasons. So, if you want to take photos in the snow or ride among the wildflowers in the spring, we've got the details. We don't have Stevie Nicks, but we do have some great trails that'll take you into the heart of Arizona's iconic landscape, which, I'll admit, is even more beautiful than the woman on the cover of *Bella Donna*.

### Global Snapshots

At last count, we had subscribers in all 50 states and 120 countries around the world. It's something we're very proud of, which is why we've launched the "Global Snapshots" page on our Web site. Here's how it works: Send us a snapshot of someone you know posing with our magazine, and we'll post it on our site. It's that simple. The shots can be taken in front of an old church in Croatia or an art gallery in Los Angeles. Anywhere. For more information, visit [arizonahighways.com](http://arizonahighways.com) and click "Online Extras."

ROBERT STIEVE, *editor*



ARIZONA HIGHWAYS  
TELEVISION

If you like what you see in this magazine every month, check out *Arizona Highways Television*, an Emmy Award-winning program hosted by former news anchor Robin Sewell. Now in its fifth season, the show does with audio and video what we do with ink and paper — it showcases the people, places and things of the Grand Canyon State, from the spectacular landscapes and colorful history to the fascinating culture and endless adventure. And that's just the beginning. "For me, the show is about more than just the destinations," Robin says. "It's about the people behind the scenes. It's their stories

that make the destinations so interesting." Indeed, there's a reason this show wins so many awards — it's second-to-none, and we're proud to have our name on it. Take a look. For broadcast times, visit our Web site, [arizonahighways.com](http://arizonahighways.com), and click the *Arizona Highways Television* link on our home page.

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**Publisher**  
WIN HOLDEN

**Editor**  
ROBERT STIEVE

**Senior Editor**  
RANDY SUMMERLIN

**Managing Editor**  
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**Editorial Administrator**  
NIKKI KIMBEL

**Director of Photography**  
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**Photography Editor**  
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**Finance Director**  
BOB ALLEN

**Information Technology**  
CINDY BORMANIS

**Corporate or Trade Sales**  
602-712-2019

**Sponsorship Sales Representation**  
ERNIE MULHOLLAND  
SKYWORD MARKETING  
602-997-7200 ext.13  
[ernie@skyword.com](mailto:ernie@skyword.com)

**Letters to the Editor**  
[editor@arizonahighways.com](mailto:editor@arizonahighways.com)  
2039 W. Lewis Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85009

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PRODUCED IN THE USA



### ROGER NAYLOR

Writer Roger Naylor headed West from Ohio because of cowboy movies, simple as that. "I knew the gunfights weren't real, but the mountains certainly were," he says. "That rugged, big-sky scenery always stayed with me. So when it came time to apply to college, I only looked west." After a stint at Northern Arizona University and a brief return to the Midwest, Naylor moved to Cottonwood 13 years ago. Now, he's a frequent visitor to the Manzanita

Restaurant, about which he writes in *The Journal* (page 7). "I was such a picky eater as a child, my mother is appalled that anyone lets me write about food," Naylor says. "For much of my life I subsisted entirely on hamburgers, [but] my palate has broadened to the point where I can actually discern flavors, not just condiments." Naylor also writes for *The Arizona Republic* and *Sedona Magazine*.

### RALPH LEE HOPKINS

Ralph Lee Hopkins has explored Oak Creek Canyon ever since his days as a graduate student at Northern Arizona University. "The juxtaposition of towering walls of red rock and vegetation along the canyon draws my eye as a photographer," he says. "And I love discovering new hidden places along the West Fork of Oak Creek." As Hopkins ventured out to shoot *Winter Whites* (page 28), he had only one regret: "This particular storm dumped almost 2 feet of snow in the canyon.

The heavy, wet snow etched every branch; ideal conditions for photography, but difficult walking. I was wishing for my snowshoes as I slogged along the trail in West Fork." Hopkins' work has also appeared in *National Geographic* and *National Geographic Traveler*.



### KELLY KRAMER

For a writer who's always wanted to be a cowgirl, compiling a list of Arizona's best horse trails (*Mane Courses*, page 38) was a treat. "If I were to pick one of my favorites, it would have to be the Escudilla National Recreation Trail near Alpine," says Kramer, who also co-authored this month's cover story, *Iconic Arizona* (page 14). "There's something magical about the view, which stretches from the San Francisco Peaks to the Gila Wilderness." Kramer is a frequent contributor to *Arizona Highways*.

#### COMMON SCENTS

How pleasant it was reading your article on growing chiles in Southeastern Arizona [*It's Chile Down There*, October 2008]. I've been there, so it had me inhaling deeply, recalling that wonderful chile smell in the air. The article brought to mind many passages about red chiles in *On the Border With Crook* by Captain John G. Bourke. About a meal at Pete Kitchen's, Bourke wrote, "...the Mexican women kneaded the dough



and patted into shape the paper-like tortillas with which to eat the juicy frijoles or dip up the tempting chile colorado." We're all still doing that, and we in Arizona are rich for having Ed Curry and his chile fields.

CAROLINA C. BUTLER, SCOTTSDALE

#### ON THE RECORD

Over the years, there have been any number of books and articles about Arizona's Territorial newspapers and journalists. *The Local Papers* [June 2008] focuses upon my grandfather, George Smalley, and mentions several others while excluding many colorful individuals, escapades and efforts that contributed to the rich field of pioneer journalism in this state. George Smalley was, indeed, a major figure for the six-year period after he arrived in Arizona, but it was he, along with many others, who set the bar high enough to produce

some wonderful journalists. His newspaper career, by the way, did not end in 1902, but extended into the 1950s, when he returned to the *Tucson (Daily) Citizen* to write a weekly column, even as I, his eldest grandchild, was working there.

DIANNE M. BRET HARTE, TUCSON

#### SERIOUS MISTAKE

I (along with my writing partner, Larry McMurtry) was interviewed regarding my thoughts about Arizona for the December 2008 issue of your magazine. When we received our copy, both Larry and I were startled by a serious misquote within the text of my interview. Larry did drive my father to Canyon de Chelly and beyond; but it was not the Navajo who so moved my Italian immigrant father: It was the Hopi.

DIANA OSSANA, TUCSON

#### COVER LETTER

I love the front-cover photo for the September 2008 issue. It has an almost indescribable magic about it. Although saguaro photos are almost cliché, it's still possible to render



this Arizona icon in a fresh way, as Joel Grimes did. I was privileged to take a black and white photography course in the 1970s, taught by Willis Peterson, a longtime contributor to *Arizona Highways*. He taught me to truly appreciate the art that goes into great black and white photography. I've been receiving *Arizona Highways* as a gift for years because I was born in Tucson and grew up in Phoenix.

While reading it, I savor the memories of my life there.

MICHAEL CAST, EDGEWOOD, MARYLAND



#### DIGITAL EVOLUTION

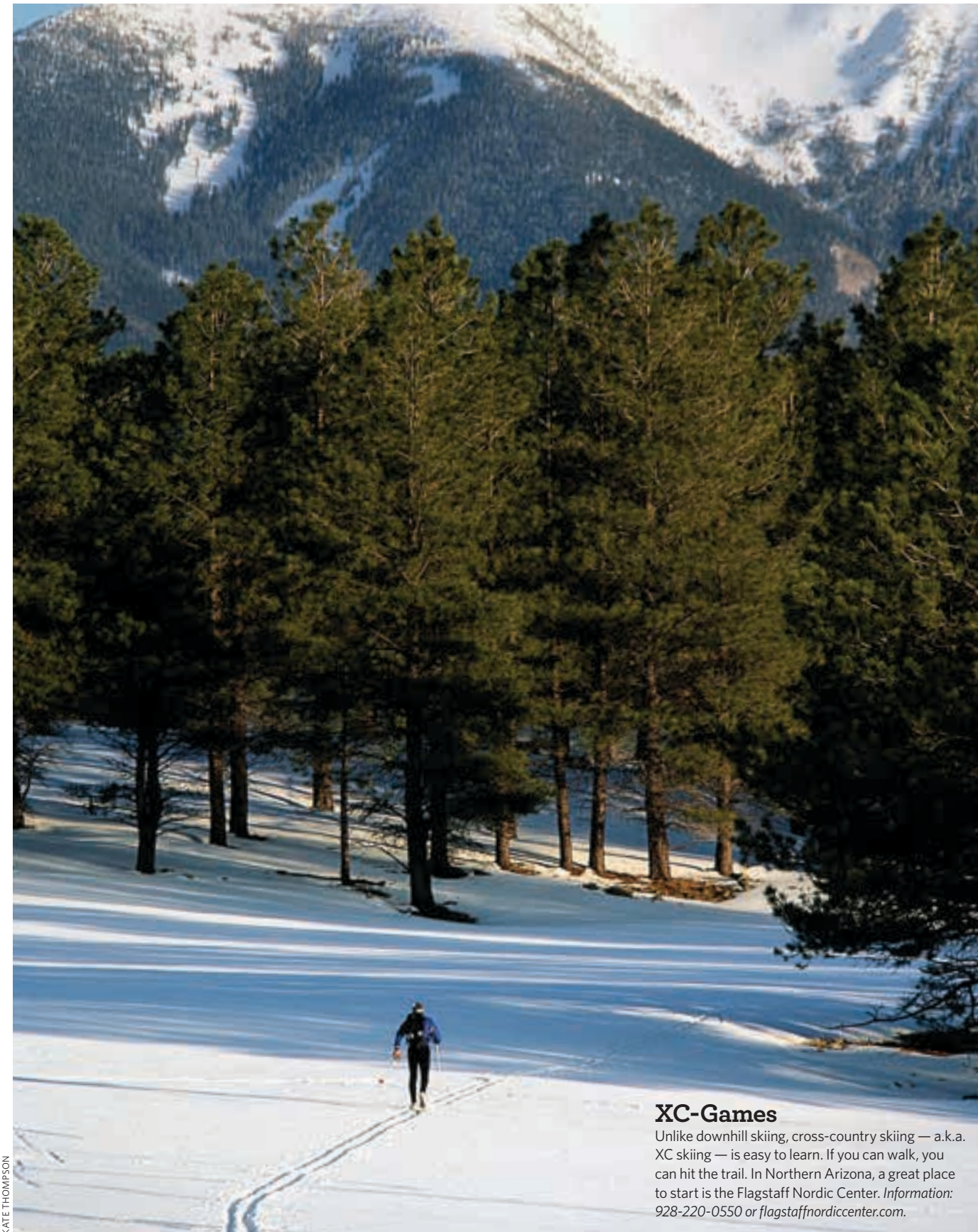
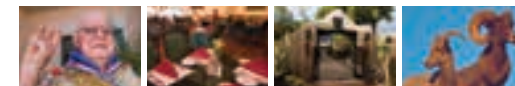
I'm sick and tired of your ongoing squabble about the merits of digital vs. film and big box vs. 35 mm pictures [*Digital vs. Film*, September 2008]. Don't you realize that it's the "result" that interests your readers, not the type of camera that was used? I've taken my share of pictures using a Brownie Box Camera, a Kodak bellows camera, 35 mm then 35 mm SLR, Polaroid and now a digital camera. I've seen exceptional pictures taken with all of them. So, please stop wasting all your energy, time and magazine space arguing about which is the best method of taking a picture and look at the results. There are just as many "tricks or enhancements" used in the darkroom as there are using digital. They're just of a different type, and it matters not to me that they are used. Unless the use is to defraud the viewer, as opposed to just enhancing a picture, I see no harm. Please show us more pictures and less argument about how they were taken.

MAX A. HATCH, CHINO VALLEY

#### WRITE ON!

Wow! Ruth Rudner's article in the August 2008 issue [*Third Climb's A Charm*] is my first conscious experience of her writing, and I was charmed. Her relationship of experience to words is poetic.

SAM CLARK, HAIKU, HAWAII



KATE THOMPSON

#### XC-Games

Unlike downhill skiing, cross-country skiing — a.k.a. XC skiing — is easy to learn. If you can walk, you can hit the trail. In Northern Arizona, a great place to start is the Flagstaff Nordic Center. *Information:* 928-220-0550 or [flagstaffnordiccenter.com](http://flagstaffnordiccenter.com).



TIM KOORS

## Scout Master

More than 80 years ago, Thomas Shelton Boggess Jr. became an Eagle Scout. Now, at age 96, he’s an elder statesman and the leader of a legacy.

By LAUREN PROPER

HIS BIRTH CERTIFICATE SAYS Thomas Shelton Boggess Jr., but close friends and family call him T.S., Granddad or T2. He’s not the Terminator by any means — from his strong Southern accent to his tiny frame, the two

men might as well be opposites. T2 is, however, a living piece of history.

Boggess is one of the nation’s oldest living Eagle Scouts, having achieved the honor at the age of 14 in 1926. But that’s just one piece of the Boggess family’s scouting legacy. Even more impressive is the fact that his son, grandson and great-grandson have all followed in Granddad’s footsteps. Every Thomas Shelton Boggess, from Jr. (T2) to V (T5), is officially an Eagle Scout.

President Bush recognized this achievement about a year ago during a short trip to Arizona, when he arranged to meet all four generations of the Boggesses on the tarmac at Sky Harbor International Airport.

“I reckon the biggest thrill, other than meeting Bush, was when they took us on *Air Force One*. Of course, I was in this wheelchair and I thought they’d just take a lift and lift me up,” Boggess Jr. says, laugh-

ing. “They had four Marines that picked me up and carried me up there, just like I was a baby.”

The experience was more memorable for T.S. than when he met another president more than 70 years earlier, in 1931. Herbert Hoover greeted T.S. and the rest of his Eagle Scouts troop before posing for a picture, which was about all the time he spent with the boys. And although he says President Bush was more cordial, Boggess still counts meeting Hoover — with his cigarette-smoking Secret Service men hiding in the bushes on the White House lawn — among his most precious Eagle Scout memories.

“Scouting has always been my first love,” Boggess says. “I think you can take a boy and make a man out of him.”

Boggess’ other love also runs in the family. Following the tradition of his farming forefathers, T.S. grew up working their land in the small town of Macon, Mississippi, and obtained a degree in chemistry and a master’s degree in biochemistry, which he put to work as a government scientist and professor.

Recently, Boggess took a trip out to his family’s historic 167-year-old farm, which is still in use and maintained by his son, Tom Boggess III. He can’t walk the perimeter anymore, but for years to come, one Thomas Shelton Boggess or another will likely pour his blood and sweat into that same Southern soil — if for nothing more than the tradition.

PRATT’S

Q&A



**Todd McFarlane**  
Spawn creator/  
comic book  
and toy guru

Say you were trying to convince one of your characters to relocate to Arizona. Where would you take them?  
I’d take them up in a small plane, about 10,000 feet, and show them that Arizona is very diverse in terms of what you can see and experience.

You’re going on a road trip to Sedona: vintage Mustang convertible or a superhero’s cape?  
I’d drive the vintage Mustang convertible from Flagstaff to Sedona via Oak Creek Canyon, but once in Sedona, the cape goes on!

Favorite place to visit in Arizona?  
I enjoy the Sedona area if traveling by car, but I also enjoy the hike to the top of South Mountain [in Phoenix], something I do regularly.

If you were to craft a toy in the image of any Arizona figure, who would you choose?  
Hmmm ... probably Janet Napolitano. She brings grace and calm to her leadership in these troubled times, which is a nice commodity to have.

What’s your favorite place to grab a bite to eat in Arizona?  
At home, of course! I have the best cook: my wife, Wanda.

— Dave Pratt is the host of the “Dave Pratt in the Morning” show on KMLE 107.9 FM in Phoenix.

MOREY K. MILBRADT



## Rural Splendor

Spanish name? German food? It’s confusing, for sure, but serious foodies are flocking to Manzanita for pork chops, sauerbraten and a plate of schnitzel.

By ROGER NAYLOR

Considering Sedona residents can barely step outside without stumbling over a scenic wonder, it’s no surprise they don’t like to leave town. Especially for something as basic as a meal. Yet nearly every night of the week, the Manzanita Restaurant in the hinterlands of Cornville is teeming with Sedonans. Joining the red rockers are folks from Flagstaff, Prescott, even Phoenix.

Whether it’s the pecan-crusted pork chops, slow-baked sauerbraten or chicken breast stuffed with crab, artichoke and spinach, Manzanita serves up meals worth some travel time.

“We’re a frumpy little stucco building with a Spanish name serving German food and we’re off the beaten track,” says owner Randy Hale. “It’s a wonder we get any business at all.”

Hale is being modest. Since the early ’90s, Manzanita has been regarded by serious foodies as one of those far-flung gems, a culinary outpost featuring a hearty continental menu. Crisp Wiener schnitzel, as golden as a winter sunrise. Steaks so tender you wonder how they ever kept a cow upright. Soups so rich, they should pay for the meal. Hale strived to maintain that sterling reputation after buying the restaurant from Swiss chef Albert Kramer in December 2006.

“There are lots of reasons to buy a restaurant, most of them bad,” Hale says. “But when the opportunity comes along to buy a wildly successful restaurant because the owner wants to retire, that’s when I got interested.”

Manzanita Restaurant is located at 11425 E. Cornville Road in Cornville. For more information call 928-634-8851 or visit [themanzanitarestaurant.com](http://themanzanitarestaurant.com).

Chefs Sam Leffel and Chris Bruneau, Kramer’s former sous chefs, now run the kitchen, where meats are still hand-cut, herbs and veggies are plucked from their own garden, and seafood is flown in fresh. Hale continues the labor-intensive slow-food practices that put Manzanita on the map, while still expanding the menu.

Take those pork chops. For years, Manzanita served a grilled chop, tasty but traditional. Hale added one as a special, sautéed in a bourbon reduction sauce and topped with a pecan mix giving it a sweet, nutty crust. It became such an instant hit, it bumped the original from the menu. More work to make, but like every other dish served, it haunts your taste buds.

In addition, Manzanita recently began offering lunch Wednesdays through Sundays, and a wine and hors d’oeuvres happy hour on weeknights — wines from neighboring vineyards are featured.

“This is something we wanted to do for the locals,” Hale says. Of course, when it comes to Manzanita, everybody in Arizona with a car qualifies as a local.

CORNVILLE



EDWARD MCCAIN

## Old School Accommodations

What began in 1930 as an elite college prep is now one of the most luxurious places in Tucson to pull an all-nighter.

By **JOBETH JAMISON**

HACIENDA DEL SOL OFFERS pure, old school accommodations. Really.

Tucked into the south-facing toes of the Santa Catalina Mountains, this easily overlooked resort (at least geographically speaking) was built in 1929 and opened in 1930 as an all-girls school. To the few people who actually saw it, this Spanish Colonial-style ranch, spread out on 34 acres of the Sonoran Desert, may well have been mistaken for a mud hut in the middle of nowhere. In truth, it was one of the most elite college preparatory schools this side of the Mississippi — intended primarily for young women who'd spent the majority of their lives on the other side of it.

Advertised nationally in *Vogue* magazine, the educational complex/debutante dude ranch accommodated up to 28 girls at a time, many of whom made the school's attendance rosters look like a coming-of-age "Who's Who?" with names including Campbell (as in soup), Maxwell (as in House) and Pillsbury (as in lots of dough).

By 1948, the role of Hacienda del Sol had changed from school to guest ranch, but the privileged caliber of guests that flocked there never tarnished. Not only was it frequented by the likes of John Wayne and Clark Gable, it became a favorite of Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy, whose preferred casita was ultimately named for them and is still enjoyed today.

In fact, Hacienda del Sol recently received official recognition as a Historic Hotel of America. While its horse stables make it a guest

ranch and help maintain its Old West air, the resort's predominant feel is upscale and fresh. The once-rustic dorms are now colorful, boutique guest quarters. The outer-lying luxury casitas have become ideal accommodations for intimate getaways, as well as group gatherings. The impeccably landscaped gardens and grounds, which are personally overseen and maintained by one of the owners, are as breathtaking as the surrounding desert and mountain views.

Recent additions of a spa and fine-wine shop have ushered the resort into a new age, but well-placed vintage furnishings, photographs and memorabilia from Hacienda del Sol's academic beginnings keep it steeped in historic charm. Combine all of that with the ambience and cuisine of the resort's acclaimed on-site restaurant, The Grill (home to one of Arizona's best Sunday brunches), and it's possible to conjure a memory that your senses will beg you to recall again and again.

Whether you just happen upon it, or you're actively seeking unique, luxury lodging and dining, Hacienda del Sol is worth studying up on.

Hacienda del Sol is located at 5601 N. Hacienda del Sol Road in Tucson. For more information, call 800-728-6514 or visit [haciendadelsol.com](http://haciendadelsol.com).

## Unnatural Habitat

Although it's inorganic, the manmade burrow in the backyard of one wildlife photographer is attracting rabbits like ... well, rabbits. And, it's making the photographer's work that much easier.

By **PETER ENSENBARGER**, director of photography

Over the years, I've written a few photography columns about creating a backyard habitat that's enticing to birds, insects and animals. It's an easy and timesaving way to practice wildlife photography, because, instead of going into the wild, the wildlife comes to you. It's a simple concept, one that *Arizona Highways* photographer Tom Bean has taken to a whole new level.

Tom and his wife, author Susan Lamb Bean, built a unique and ingenious "rabbitat" out of simple materials. They first buried a small utility junction box beneath a mound of soil and limestone rocks, and then let nature take over as local meadow grasses and wildflowers filled in around the manmade burrow. The triple-ported underground chamber provides wild rabbits protection from predators and freezing temperatures. In no time at all, cottontails had taken up winter residence in the Beans' rabbitat.

Providing refuge for rabbits added another element to their wildlife-viewing opportunities. The Beans' home, just outside of Flagstaff, takes full advantage of its overlook onto an open meadow, where a variety of high-country animals pass through. In addition, Aberts squirrels provide endless entertainment and photo ops as they frolic in the nearby ponderosa pines. It's an ideal setting for a nature photographer like Tom, because he can get excellent wildlife images from the comfort of his living room during Northern Arizona's cold, snowy winters. Of course, Tom situated the rabbitat in a way that ensures clear camera views of the rabbits' activity from the windows, patio and roof of his two-story home.

"I began throwing carrots into the burrow entrance," Tom says. "In fact, I started to ring a little bell each time I went out with a carrot. In a surprisingly short time, the desired Pavlovian response occurred, and rabbits began to come out and await their carrot."

The rabbits reached a comfort

level with Tom and his camera, even allowing him a certain amount of control over where he photographed the long-eared critters.

"I began tying a string to the carrot to keep them from picking it up and hopping off with it," he says. "I wanted them to hang around where the light was good so I could take photos. Sometimes we got into a tug of war over control of the carrot."

If you're a frequent reader of this magazine, you've seen many of Tom's backyard wildlife photographs. He reaps the photographic benefits of his home's location, and he's always ready when wildlife comes within range of his telephoto lens. His subjects around the rabbitat now include other species, as well, because, wherever rabbits go, coyotes and foxes are sure to follow.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY TOM BEAN



### DO YOUR HOMEWORK

Driving back roads with your camera gear on the seat next to you can be a productive strategy for wildlife photography, especially in the early morning and late afternoon hours. But your approach must be slow and easy — driving about 10 mph. Another way to get close to wildlife subjects is to seek out watering holes and natural food sources that birds and mammals visit, such as fruit-bearing plants and trees. Research is important, too, and the Internet is a great place to start planning your trip. You'll learn the dietary, migration and nesting habits of your subjects, sunrise and sunset times, and more. Regional nature guidebooks are useful, as well — it's important to know what you've photographed, because, inevitably, someone will ask. With enough knowledge and dedication, you'll be able to call yourself a wildlife photographer and naturalist.



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Look for *Arizona Highways Photography Guide*, available at bookstores and [arizonahighways.com](http://arizonahighways.com).

### ONLINE

For more photography tips and other information, visit [arizonahighways.com](http://arizonahighways.com) and click on "Photo Tips."



ARIZONA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

## Territorial Trollops

They weren't put on pedestals, but the ladies of the evening played a major role in settling the West, especially in places like Tombstone.

By SALLY BENFORD

IF YOU WERE A "working woman" in Territorial Arizona, it usually meant one of a few things: You were a teacher, ran a boarding house, took in laundry, worked as a housekeeper ... or you hung out at the local saloon entertaining men — primarily miners, cowboys and professional gamblers.

### TOMBSTONE

In saloons across the territory, good-time gals — called "soiled doves," "shady ladies" or "hurdy-gurdy girls" — managed a certain level of esteem, at least by men. Gamblers and imbibers greeted them with open arms and open wallets, mainly because they contributed to the local economy and provided services that some believed kept the lid on the powder kegs known as mining camps. And, while some ladies of the evening belonged to the lowest levels of society, others bestowed a feminine touch on an otherwise rugged and dreary existence. They came to Arizona from places like Dodge City, Santa Fe and

San Francisco, and many brought pianos, fancy furnishings, the latest fashions and the finest wines with them.

From Tombstone to Prescott, saloons with second-floor rooms were the places these women called home. In 1882, Tombstone boasted 110 saloons, most with some form of entertainment. Many shady ladies worked as singers or dancers to earn extra money. At the Bird Cage Theatre, there was one woman in particular who often took to the stage, floating above the crowd, suspended from wires. She called herself "Lizette, the Flying Nymph." There were others with colorful nicknames, too: "Blond Marie," "Irish Mag," "Crazy Horse Lil," "China Mary" and "Madame Mustache." Some, like "Big Nose Kate," became famous for the company they kept.

Kate was Doc Holliday's common-law wife, and she ran a hotel in Globe that most likely dished up more than breakfast, lunch and dinner to local miners. Kate became a successful female entrepreneur in a man's world, but for most, life was hard and prostitution was the only way to survive in the rugged West.

When mines shut down, the hurdy-gurdy girls packed up and moved on to a new boomtown. And as mining camps became more stable, the women were forced into "tenderloin" or "red-light" districts, and eventually, they were driven out as laws against prostitution became enacted. Nonetheless, Arizona's soiled doves have a place in the state's history, and, as some suggest, they may have even helped tame the Wild West.



## 50 years ago

IN ARIZONA HIGHWAYS

In February 1959, we featured some of the state's best fishing holes. From the streams and rivers of the White Mountains to Oak Creek and the reservoir lakes along the Colorado River, the stories and photographs offered information about where to catch rainbows, catfish and other cold-blooded dinner entrees.

For more information on Tombstone, call 800-457-3423 or visit [tombstonechamber.com](http://tombstonechamber.com).

## This month in history

■ In February 1908, Arizona saloon owners raised the price of a mug of beer to 10 cents to offset a law mandating that saloons close each day at midnight and all day on Sundays.

■ On February 18, 1930, at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Clyde Tombaugh confirmed his discovery of a new planet. The new planet was named Pluto.

■ In the early morning of February 22, 1890, the Walnut Grove Dam collapsed, sending a rushing wall of water down the Hassayampa River toward Wickenburg. It's believed that more than 100 people died.

## Counting Sheep

Although their numbers have dropped significantly over the years, recent studies suggest that desert bighorn sheep are making a comeback. By LEAH DURAN

Aries, the Greek god of war, rules over the sign of the ram in the Western horoscope. However, not all rams are hotheaded. In fact, because of a vast network of blood vessels in the underbellies and horns of bighorn sheep, these shy creatures are able to dispel heat and keep cool, making them perfectly suited to withstand the blazing temperatures of the mountaintops on which they live. What's more, desert bighorn sheep can go several months without so much as a sip of water, and they're able to lose up to 30 percent of their liquid body weight, something even a camel cannot do.

Those adaptations come in handy in the rugged mountain ranges of the Southwest.

When watering holes dry up, bighorns garner moisture from pincushion and saguaro cactuses.

Normally, their diet consists of a smattering of leaves, twigs, flowers and grasses, including jojoba, paloverde and fluff grass.

Although bighorns rarely fight over food, the rams will exhibit the fiery nature of their namesake when battling over ewes, or female sheep. Starting from about 20 feet apart, challengers charge at each other with lowered horns. These curly, rust-tinted hunks of keratin, a substance akin to human fingernails, can grow as long as 40 inches and weigh more than 30 pounds. The resulting crashes resound amid the steep mountain canyons until one of the rams admits defeat — sparing sometimes lasts up to a half-hour.

Desert bighorns are perfectly suited to desert life, but an increase in mountain lions, a prolonged drought, and development are making it difficult. At one point, an estimated 30,000 desert bighorn sheep inhabited the state. By the 1940s, the population dropped

to 750, mainly due to mining and cattle ranching. Today, approximately 5,000 bighorns roam Arizona's craggy mountaintops. The largest group lives in the Black Mountains north of Kingman. Other significant populations wander the Cabeza Prieta and Kofa national wildlife refuges.

The Kofa refuge's bighorn population reached a historic low of 390 in 2006, according to studies conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Arizona Game and Fish Department, which work together to manage the sheep.

"The big factor that's playing a role is mountain lion predation," says Brian Wakeling, the big-game supervisor for Game and Fish.

While concerns remain, hope is on the horizon — a November 2007 survey showed a slight jump to 460 sheep at Kofa. Accurate counts are difficult, but the recent increase is indicative of a stable bighorn population, Wakeling says.

"It's encouraging that it's moving upward," he says. "It's a very good sign."

Information: Arizona Game and Fish Department, 602-942-3000 or [azgfd.gov](http://azgfd.gov).

## nature factoid



BRUCE D. TAUBERT

### Spotted Bats

When it comes to roosts, those of spotted bats just might be the most spectacular. The big-eared, piebald fliers — also known as jackass bats — make their homes on the cliffs of the Grand Canyon, as well as in coniferous forests, meadows and crooks of saguaro cactuses. When it comes to dinner, they're pretty finicky. Researchers have observed spotted bats discarding the heads and wings of moths in order to eat only the abdomens.



C.K. LORENZ



Used Book Sale

FEBRUARY 14-15 PHOENIX

Looking for a good book? The 53rd Annual VNSA Used Book Sale at the Arizona State Fairgrounds features more than 600,000 books in every genre imaginable, as well as DVDs, CDs, computer games, record albums, maps and more. Proceeds benefit local charities. *Information: vnsabooksale.org.*



A Chocolate Affaire

FEBRUARY 6-8 GLENDALE

Chocoholics will want to be in Glendale this month for its annual chocolate festival. More than 40 vendors offer everything from chocolate Belgian waffles to chocolate-banana egg rolls. The event also includes tours of the Cerreta Candy factory, live entertainment and writing workshops. *Information: 877-800-2601 or visitglendale.com.*



International Film Festival

FEBRUARY 25-MARCH 1 SEDONA

Sample the work of independent filmmakers this month in one of Arizona's most beautiful settings. More than 130 new films will be screened, as well as some Hollywood classics. An opening-night reception, workshops and dessert parties are also included. *Information: 928-282-1177 or sedonafilmfestival.com.*



JEFF KIDA

Butterfly Magic

FEBRUARY 1-28 TUCSON

Tucson Botanical Gardens showcases hundreds of the world's most exotic butterflies during Butterfly Magic at the Gardens. Watch butterflies from Asia, Africa and Australia as well as tropical America flutter around the garden's Tropical greenhouse. *Information: 520-326-9686 or tucsonbotanical.org.*



COLLEEN MINIUK-SPERRY

Photography Workshops

Sample some of Southern Arizona's photographic opportunities during Arizona Highways Photo Workshops that travel to Tucson, Tombstone and beyond. Learn how to shoot great portraits of period personalities as well as scenic landscapes filled with wooded canyons, desert cactuses and a variety of wildlife. *Information: 888-790-7042 or friends-of-azhighways.com.*



DAVID H. SMITH

Historic Tour

FEBRUARY 14 FLORENCE

Tour some of Florence's historic homes and public buildings while learning about the town's architecture and history. An antiques and collectibles show, as well as living-history demonstrations, take place at nearby McFarland State Park. *Information: florencemainstreet.com or 520-868-4496.*



PHOENIX PUBLIC LIBRARY HOSTS

LASTING LIGHT:  
125 Years of Grand Canyon  
Photography

PHOTO COURTESY JACK DYKINGA



PHOTO COURTESY DUGALD BREMNER



PHOTO COURTESY S&A PARTNERS

JANUARY 10 - MARCH 29, 2009  
FREE ADMISSION

Covering more than a century of photographic history, the exhibition features 60 photographs by well-known photographers including:

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| JACK DYKINGA    | JAMES COWLIN   |
| DAVE EDWARDS    | JOHN RUNNING   |
| DUGALD BREMNER  | MIKE BUCHHEIT  |
| GARY LADD       | JOHN BLAUSTEIN |
| MICHAEL COLLIER | RANDY PRENTICE |
| GEORGE HUEY     | SUE BENNETT    |

Burton Barr Central Library  
1221 N. Central Ave., Phoenix, Arizona  
phoenixpubliclibrary.org/lastinglight

"Lasting Light: 125 Years of Grand Canyon Photography" was created by the Grand Canyon Association and organized for travel by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. The exhibit is sponsored locally by the Phoenix Public Library Foundation with media support from *Arizona Highways* magazine.

# ULTIMATE

*The next time you're in Michigan, Massachusetts or Mozambique, ask the first guy you see about Arizona, and he'll likely bring up the Grand Canyon or maybe Geronimo. When it comes to icons in this state, the letter "G" is loaded. For the other 25, the names aren't as obvious — thank goodness for Quartzsite. What follows are some of Arizona's most iconic people, places and things. There's one for each letter of the alphabet, with a few honorable mentions mixed in.*

# ARIZONA

BY KERIDWEN CORNELIUS & KELLY KRAMER

A crescent moon shines over Monument Valley's snow-dusted mesas near Totem Pole and Yei Bichei rocks. PHOTOGRAPH BY JACK DYKINGA





TERRENCE MOORE

01  
ICON

## EDWARD ABBEY

a

If novelist Larry McMurtry calls you the “Thoreau of the American West,”

chances are you’ve done something big, and Edward Abbey did plenty. As author of *The Monkey Wrench Gang* and *Desert Solitaire: A Season in the Wilderness*, Abbey was a staunch advocate for the preservation of the West’s most beautiful places, from another Arizona “A,” **Antelope Canyon**, to Zion National Park in Utah. And although some deemed his ideas inflammatory, his essays on conservationism still resonate. “Cactus Ed,” as he was known to his contemporaries, died at his home in Oracle, but rumor has it his friends and family buried him somewhere in the empty desert of Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge beneath a stone that reads: “Edward Paul Abbey, 1927-1989. No comment.”

02  
ICON

## THE BILTMORE RESORT

b

People have come from far and wide to stay at the Arizona Biltmore Resort in Phoenix, but perhaps none is more famous than Marilyn Monroe, who called the hotel’s pool her favorite, or Irving Berlin, who penned *White Christmas* poolside. But whether you’re a miner from **Bisbee** or a grocery store magnate like Eddie **Basha**, you’ll have to appreciate the sheer beauty of the Biltmore, which celebrates its 80th anniversary this month. When it opened in 1929, it was crowned the “Jewel of the Desert,” and that’s a handle that suits it well. Its architecture, influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright, is built with pre-cast concrete textile blocks that feature the Biltmore’s palm tree insignia. The 739-room resort is an homage to both Wright and the Arizona desert. *Information:* 800-950-0086 or [arizonabiltmore.com](http://arizonabiltmore.com).

ARIZONA BILTMORE RESORT



DON B. STEVENSON



03  
ICON

## THE FIVE C's

c

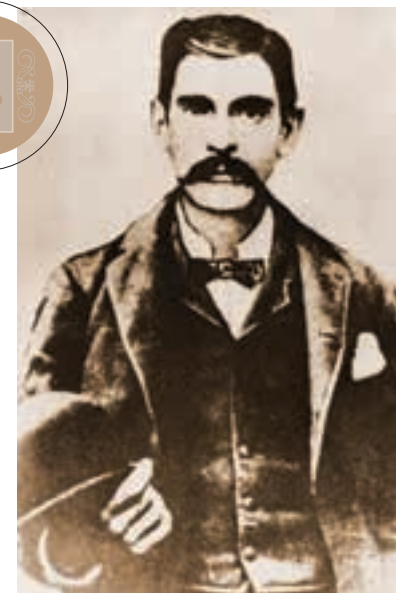
For some diehard fans, **Cactus League** baseball is the stuff that dreams are made of, but things were different back in the days of **Cochise** and his mates, not long before **cotton, copper, citrus, cattle** and **climate** reigned supreme. The five C's appear on the state seal as a testament to the industries that built Arizona's economy, and today, the C's continue to have a significant impact on the state's coffers. At one point, Arizona was the nation's largest producer of cotton; the state's mines account for two-thirds of the nation's copper output; and, clearly, the varied climate draws plenty of visitors to each of the state's five regions during all four seasons.

04  
ICON

## DOC HOLLIDAY

d

As far as dentists go, Dr. John Henry Holliday was probably the most recognized in American history, but not because of the way he nimbly handled an extractor. You see, Doc Holliday was, at one time, the West's most notorious gambler and, as he was known to Wyatt Earp, “the deadliest man with a six-gun.” After being diagnosed with tuberculosis in the mid-1870s, Holliday headed west from Georgia, and after run-ins with the law in Texas, Nevada and Colorado, made his way to Tombstone in 1880 with his on-again-off-again love, Mary Katharine Harony, known as “Big Nose Kate.” There, Holliday continued to get into trouble, which culminated in the famed gunfight at the O.K. Corral. Holliday escaped to Colorado, but his freedom didn't last long. His tuberculosis finally caught up with him, and he died — after drinking a glass of whiskey — on November 8, 1887. *Information:* 800-457-3423 or [tombstonechamber.com](http://tombstonechamber.com).



ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



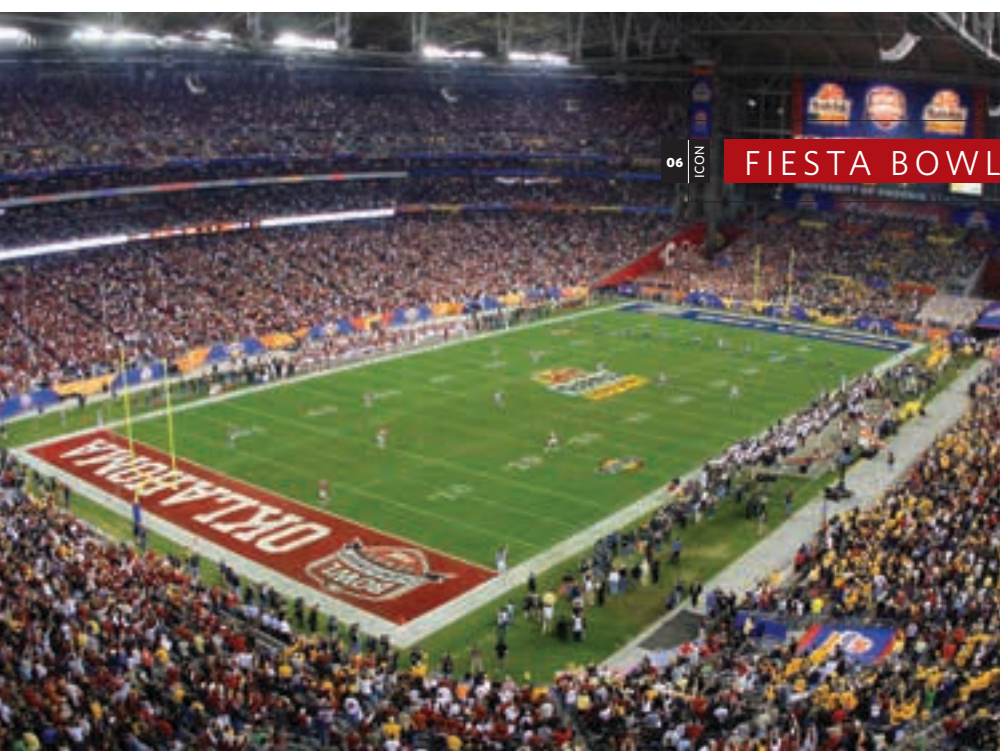
05

ICON

## EL TOVAR HOTEL

e

Had **Wyatt Earp** and Doc Holliday ever visited El Tovar, they might have changed their Wild West tunes and embraced more contemplative existences instead. Since it opened in 1905, the historic hotel has drawn intellectuals like Zane Grey, Albert Einstein and Teddy Roosevelt. And for good reason: The hotel sits along the South Rim of the Grand Canyon, one of the world's most inspirational places. Rumor has it that the lodge's main dining room was designed specifically for Roosevelt, who, according to PBS, had a habit of arriving for meals dressed in an "inappropriate uniform of muddy boots and dusty riding clothes." Today, the dining room and the lodge's guestrooms maintain their historical ambience, drawing thousands of visitors each year. *Information: [grandcanyonlodges.com/el-tovar](http://grandcanyonlodges.com/el-tovar).*



06

ICON

## FIESTA BOWL

f

### Football and Arizona go together

like **Frank Lloyd Wright** and Taliesin West.

The Fiesta Bowl, which moved in 2007 from Tempe's Sun Devil Stadium to Glendale's University of Phoenix Stadium, became part of the Bowl Championship Series in 1998. That means fans from as far and wide as **Fort Bowie** and Fort Wayne, Indiana, descend on the state each January to watch top teams in college football vie for the title of Fiesta Bowl Champion. And a number of iconic players have emerged from the Tostitos-sponsored game, including former ASU wide receiver John Jefferson. After his MVP appearance in the 1975 Fiesta Bowl, he went on to amass 1,001 yards in his rookie season with the San Diego Chargers. How's that for a fiesta? *Information: 480-350-0900 or [fiestabowl.org](http://fiestabowl.org).*



ARIZONA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

09

ICON

## INDIAN CULTURE

i

Just as Irish history is to Boston, Indian culture is to Arizona. From the ceremonial dances of the Hopi and Navajo people to the historic sites left behind by Apache warriors, much of Arizona's modern existence is rooted in Native foundations. That's important, particularly given that around 250,000 Native Americans from 21 tribes live in the state. Phoenix's Heard Museum celebrates a number of these tribes, and features nearly 40,000 pieces of cultural art, including Hopi kachina dolls, Navajo rugs and countless paintings, sculptures, baskets and jewelry. *Information: 602-252-8848 or [heard.org](http://heard.org).*

DON B. STEVENSON



07

ICON

## BARRY GOLDWATER

g

The Grand Canyon and Geronimo are obvious when it comes to golden G's in Arizona history. But if the state ever had a golden boy, five-term U.S. Senator Barry Goldwater might have been him. "Mr. Conservative" was the man the GOP turned to during the Watergate scandal to tell President Richard Nixon that the party would push for his impeachment and conviction. Goldwater was also a champion of conservatism and the author of several books on the subject. Today, many political historians believe that Goldwater's unsuccessful run for president in 1964 sparked the beginning of a revolution in the Republican Party.

08

ICON

## HARKINS THEATRES

h

Dwight "Red" Harkins loved Harley-Davidson motorcycles. So much so that he hopped on one in Cincinnati in 1931 and headed for Hollywood. He didn't make it, though. Instead, he landed in Tempe, not far from the **Heard Museum** and the home office of **Holsum Bread**. Two years later, at the age of 18, he opened his first movie house, the State Theatre, and in 1940, he opened the College Theatre, which is now Harkins Valley Art on Mill Avenue. Since then, countless Harkins theaters have sprouted up around Arizona and several surrounding states. Although Red (pictured) passed away in 1974, his son, Dan, continues to run the family business, which is the largest family-owned theater chain in the country. *Information: 480-627-7777 or [harkinstheatres.com](http://harkinstheatres.com).*

COURTESY HARKINS THEATRES



10

ICON

## JOHN WESLEY POWELL

j



Major John Wesley Powell had big dreams — not the least of which was exploring the great Colorado River and the even greater Grand Canyon. So one morning in May 1869, the Civil War veteran and a team of nine men headed down the Green River from Wyoming, hoping to make it to the Colorado. Three months later, Powell and a few remaining men made it and proved Powell's theory: The Colorado River predates the Canyon, and helped cut it as plateaus rose. Theirs was the first recorded passage through the Grand Canyon. Today, another waterway is named for the explorer, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area's Lake Powell. *Information: 928-645-9426 or [powellmuseum.org](http://powellmuseum.org).*



11 **KITT PEAK**

The scientists at Kitt Peak National Observatory follow the sun — literally. Established in 1958 on the Tohono O’odham Nation, the observatory atop Kitt Peak is 56 miles southwest of Tucson. KPNO is known for its three major nighttime telescopes. It’s also home to the world’s largest collection of optical telescopes, which means that scientists and civilians alike have an amazing opportunity to explore out-of-this-world sights — like faraway galaxies, Saturn’s rings and a moon or two. Kitt Peak is most famous as the first observatory to host a near-Earth asteroid-seeking telescope. It’s a good thing, too — there are already enough rocks in Arizona. *Information: 520-318-8726 or [www.noao.edu/outreach/kpoutreach.html](http://www.noao.edu/outreach/kpoutreach.html).*

12 **ICON**

**LONDON BRIDGE**

1

**London’s famous**

bridge isn’t what it used to be. That’s because the 1831 original wasn’t structurally sound and couldn’t, by 1962, support the weight of London’s increasing traffic. The city, hoping to finance a new bridge, decided to sell it, and found a buyer in the late Robert McCulloch. McCulloch had a fair amount of money — so much, in fact, that you might have thought he’d found the **Lost Dutchman’s** treasure. But he hadn’t. McCulloch was the founder of Lake Havasu City (and Fountain Hills in Metro Phoenix), and he had the bridge disassembled and shipped to Arizona, where reassembly began in 1968. These days, the bridge is a tourist attraction, and even though the fishing isn’t what it is at **Lee’s Ferry**, there are plenty of photo opportunities. *Information: [golakehavas.com](http://golakehavas.com) or 800-242-8278.*

PETER EISENBERGER



13 **ICON**

**METEOR CRATER**

m



ADRIEL HEISEY

**The scientists at Kitt Peak aren’t likely to**

miss any giant rocks hurtling toward Earth, but 50,000 years ago there weren’t any scientists around. That’s when a giant ball of rock, nickel and iron slammed into the ground outside of Winslow, forming one heck of a hole. Meteor Crater, as it’s known, is more than 4,000 feet across and about 550 feet deep. Modern scientists estimate that the impact of that meteor was enough to produce a shock wave similar to that of a 5.5-magnitude earthquake. They also believe the thermal energy of the impact probably killed everything within a 3-mile radius. Luckily, the only things roaming the Colorado Plateau back then were woolly mammoths and giant ground sloths. *Information: 928-289-2362 or [meteorcrater.com](http://meteorcrater.com).*

GARY LADD



14

ICON

## NAVAJOLAND



High on the upper shelf of Arizona sits a storied landscape larger than Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island combined. Navajoland's star attraction is Monument Valley — a Martian-like desert with mitten-shaped monoliths that, in Navajo lore, represent the hands of spirits. The reservation is saturated in history — from millennia-old Anasazi, Hopi and Navajo traditions to Hubbell Trading Post, a national historic site. Another fabled landscape is Canyon de Chelly, one of the longest continuously inhabited areas in North America. What the canyon lacks in width and depth, it more than makes up for in myth. And like all of Diné Bikéyah, as Navajoland is known, it's inextricably connected to the Navajo culture. Information: 928-871-6647 or [navajonationparks.org](http://navajonationparks.org).

CHUCK LAWSEN

16

ICON

## PLUTO



## Pluto may have

been demoted as a planet recently, but in our eyes it will always be Arizona's shining star. First photographed without his knowledge by another "P" — **Percival Lowell** — the mysterious planet was officially discovered in 1930 by Lowell Observatory scientist Clyde Tombaugh. Planet or no, the ninth rock from the sun remains an emblem of Arizona's astronomical achievements. Back on Earth, the crystallized trees at **Petrified National Forest** fascinate rockhounds with their Triassic secrets, and at the bottom of the Grand Canyon, hikers are always relieved to see the 86-year-old **Phantom Ranch**, where, after a long day of hiking, you'll sleep like a rock. Information: 928-774-3358 or [lowell.edu](http://lowell.edu).



ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

17

ICON

## QUARTZSITE



## It might be the middle of nowhere, but

every winter Quartzsite is ground zero for a motley crowd of retirees and rockhounds. That's when the RVs roll in, adding more than a million attendees of rock and mineral shows to the permanent population of 3,650. Despite its toast-dry milieu, the quirky outpost's perpetual sunny days, proximity to both Phoenix and Los Angeles, and laid-back vibe keep snowbirds flocking back each year. They come for the 24 gem and mineral shows that transform the settlement into an agate- and jasper-filled bazaar. Information: 928-927-4333 or [ci.quartzsite.az.us](http://ci.quartzsite.az.us).



ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

15

ICON

## O.K. CORRAL



It lasted just 30 seconds, but it's been immortalized in dozens of books and films. (One of which, *The Gunfight at O.K. Corral*, was filmed at another "O" icon, **Old Tucson Studios**.) The most famous shootout of all time — featuring such big guns as Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday — became a symbol of the lawless Wild West and cemented Tombstone's reputation as "the town too tough to die." Fortunately, we've come a long way from anarchy to **Sandra Day O'Connor**, the Southern Arizona ranch girl-cum-U.S. Supreme Court associate justice who proved that the West can produce the wise as well as the wild. Information: 800-457-3423 or [tombstonechamber.com](http://tombstonechamber.com).

18

ICON

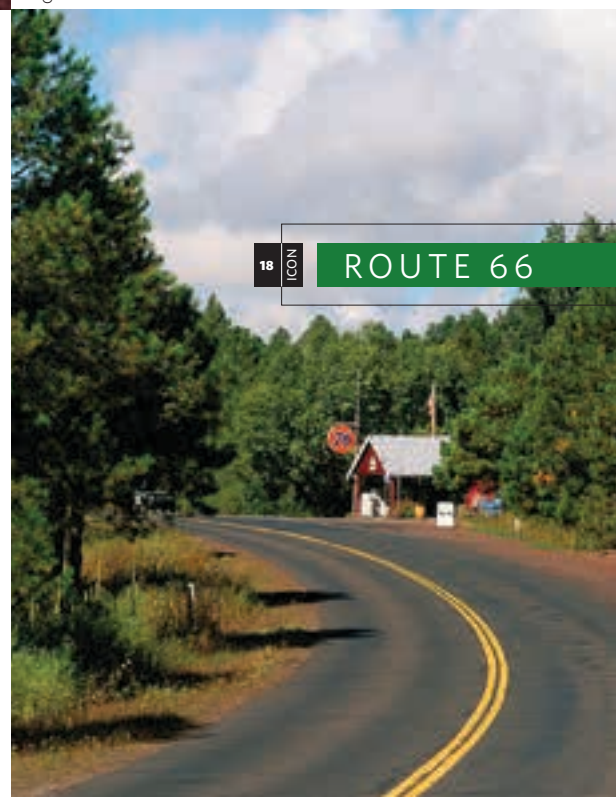
## ROUTE 66



## It's not just a catchy song and John Steinbeck calling it the "mother road"

that put this thoroughfare in the highway hall of fame. Route 66 was the 20th century's answer to the Oregon Trail — an asphalt artery from America's heartland to a future filled with promise, freedom and sunshine. Since its decertification in 1985, it's become almost the opposite: a nostalgic conduit to a past when everything was full of promise, freedom and ... well, you get the idea. Arizona's portion of the Main Street of America is the longest drivable segment and a pageant of quirkiness, from curiosities like faux dinosaurs and teepees to curios peddling car-themed keepsakes. Information: [historic66.com](http://historic66.com).

TERRENCE MOORE



19

ICON

## SAGUARO

S

## Ask 100 people to draw an Arizona

landscape, and 99 of them will sketch a saguaro. It's impossible to think of our state without conjuring an image of this celebrity-status cactus. That's largely because it grows only in the Sonoran Desert, in a swath of Arizona and northern Mexico shaped, coincidentally, like a saguaro bloom, Arizona's state flower. The largest cactus in the United States, the saguaro can tower up to 50 feet tall, tip the scale at more than 6 tons, and live to the ripe age of 200 years or more. It can also endure for years without water, making it the picture of desert survival. *Information: 520-733-5153 or [nps.gov/sagu](http://nps.gov/sagu).*

DAVID H. SMITH

JERRY SIEVE

20

ICON

## TALIESIN WEST

t

**Speaking of saguaros ... when architect Frank Lloyd Wright** saw the cactus's natural pleats, he was inspired to fashion shadow-casting canvas panels on the roofs of Taliesin West. That's just one of the ways this masterpiece of organic architecture mimics the landscape. Constructed not for a client but as a lab and school, the structure emerged from the mind of its creator as raw and unadulterated as the surrounding desert. Taliesin — Welsh for “shining brow” — definitely raised eyebrows in its heyday, attracting visiting iconoclasts like Georgia O'Keeffe with its avant-garde architecture. The future also looks bright for the Scottsdale compound: In 2008, Taliesin West made the U.S. World Heritage Tentative List. *Information: 480-860-2700 or [franklloydwright.org](http://franklloydwright.org).*



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

## 21 ICON USS ARIZONA



It never saw its namesake state before it sank, and only a handful of Arizonans were aboard on December 7, 1941, when 1,177 crew members were killed. Yet the *USS Arizona* — the first battleship to be christened after the newly formed state — holds a special place in the hearts of Arizonans. In honor of the ship that lost the most lives in American history, the University of Arizona constructed its student union in the shape of the *USS Arizona's* bow, and displays one of its bells. In addition, artifacts from the ship are showcased in the Arizona Capitol Museum and nearby Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza in Phoenix. *Information:* 602-0926-3620 or [www.lib.az.us/museum](http://www.lib.az.us/museum).

SHARLOT HALL MUSEUM



## 23 ICON WHISKEY ROW

A single block jammed with more than 40 saloons: Recipe for a perpetual hangover, or a legacy that would shape the city of Prescott? Both, actually. Montezuma Street, a.k.a. Whiskey Row, was the place Territorial miners and cowboys went to drown their sorrows or stir up trouble. In 1900, a fire destroyed the row, scorching 25 bars and the red-light district. But the barflies couldn't endure long without their watering holes. By 1905, most of the buildings were rebuilt in vintage style, including Sam'l Hill Hardware Co., the Highland Hotel, the Palace, the Levy Building and the Hotel St. Michael. *Information:* 800-266-7534 or [visit-prescott.com](http://visit-prescott.com).



## 24 ICON SAN XAVIER DEL BAC

With its stunningly intricate art, Mission San Xavier del Bac has been heralded as the Sistine Chapel of the United States. Jesuit missionary and explorer Father Eusebio Kino founded the mission in 1692, and Tohono O'odham Indians constructed the present building in the late 1700s. An exotic blend of Moorish, Byzantine and Mexican Renaissance architecture, the "White Dove of the Desert" is considered by critics the finest Spanish colonial church in the country. The powers that be agree: In the 1960s, San Xavier del Bac was declared a National Historic Landmark and added to the National Register of Historic Places. *Information:* 520-294-2624 or [sanxaviermission.org](http://sanxaviermission.org).

GEORGE RAYMOND



ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## 22 ICON VORTEXES



Eye candy abounds in stunning Sedona, yet some of its biggest attractions are invisible. Defined as energy funnels where the Earth is especially alive and healthy, vortexes are mysterious, energy-enhancing and, if you ask the hundreds of New Agers who visit regularly, life-altering. Several vortexes are said to whirl throughout Sedona, including Bell Rock, Airport Mesa, Boynton Canyon and Cathedral Rock. They even shape the landscape, allegedly twisting the branches of juniper trees. Sounds nebulous? Maybe, but one thing's for sure: They've put Sedona on the spiritual map. *Information:* 800-288-7336 or [visitsedona.com](http://visitsedona.com).



## 25 ICON YUMA TERRITORIAL PRISON



It was one of the most notorious slammer in the West, and the final destination (literally) of the villain in the film *3:10 to Yuma*. Nicknamed "Devil's Island," the Yuma Territorial Prison had a reputation as an Alcatraz-esque hellhole from which no one ever escaped. But this was largely myth. Of the 3,069 men and women who did time there between 1876 and 1909, 26 broke out. Those who stayed had access to education and one of Arizona's first public libraries. Fittingly, the place later became home to the Yuma Union High School "Criminals" and is now a historic museum. *Information:* 928-0783-4771 or [azstateparks.com](http://azstateparks.com).



ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## 26 ICON ZANE GREY



Though the "father of the Western novel" was born in Ohio, he found his muse in Arizona, where he set 24 of his more than 60 Western novels. The Mogollon Rim was the backdrop for half of those — including *Under the Tonto Rim* and *To the Last Man* — earning the area the nickname "Zane Grey Country." Several weeks a year, Grey rusticated and wrote at his cabin in Payson, which burned down in the 1990 Dude Fire. It was later rebuilt as a museum dedicated to the dentist/semipro baseball player/screenwriter/best-selling Western author of all time, whose stories inspired more than 100 movies. *Information:* 928-474-6115 or [zanegreycabin.org](http://zanegreycabin.org).



Water is a big deal in Arizona. That's why Oak Creek's perennial stream is something special. It's a respite in the summer, a scenic wonder in the spring and fall, and a photographer's favorite subject when the snow flies in winter. In this month's portfolio, our photographer showcases the creek and the surrounding canyon in a way you've probably never seen before. "Wow" is the first word that'll come to mind.

# winter WHITES

BY RALPH LEE HOPKINS



## & Melting Scenes

*The views on a snowy evening along Oak Creek in Sedona are stunning, but during daylight hours, the sun illuminates an even greater number of breathtaking scenes. A winter storm clears over Red Rock Crossing (preceding panel) as snowmelt swells the creek (left), and the rushing water reflects the sunrise. During a blizzard at Slide Rock State Park (below), a blanket of white covers everything except Oak Creek.*



## Frosted Peaks

*As snow clouds clear, blue patches of sky appear over vast panoramic views from Schnebly Hill Road, and the air regains its crisp, dry winter chill. The red rocks, lightly coated with fresh powder, escape the heavier snow that settles in Oak Creek Canyon.*





## & Wintry Wonders

*In the course of a year, Slide Rock State Park (above) receives about 25 inches of snow, coating the bare branches of juniper and sycamore trees that line the creek. A winter storm clears at Cathedral Rock (right), one of Sedona's most recognizable red-rock formations, creating a halo of light as snow clouds drift past the peaks.*





## Snow Glow

*Frosty branches almost obscure Sedona's burnt sienna cliffs that escape the winter storm's whitewash, creating a snowy scene in Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness (left). True to their name, evergreens glow under a fresh coat of snow against a vertical wall along the West Fork of Oak Creek (above). ■*

HIKING, BIKING, HOT-AIR  
BALLOONING ... THERE ARE  
MANY WAYS TO EXPLORE  
ARIZONA'S BACKCOUN-  
TRY. THE BEST, HOWEVER,  
MIGHT BE ON THE BACK OF  
A QUARTER HORSE, PALO-  
MINO OR EVEN OLD PAINT.  
LIKE THE SCENERY ITSELF,  
THE TRAIL RIDING IN THIS  
NECK OF THE WOODS IS  
SECOND-TO-NONE.

# W A N T C O U R S E S

BY KELLY KRAMER

Wink Crigler, owner of X Dia-  
mond Ranch, leads her horse to  
water — and makes it drink —  
near Greer. PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN  
BECKETT



## Harvey was one heck of a horse.

He wasn't much to look at — his tail was a bit knotted, and his once cream-colored coat was stained a certain shade of mushroom — but he was everything I, as a 6-year-old girl, could want in a trail horse. He slowed with the gentlest tug on the reins and had just enough giddyup to get the wind blowing through my hair. Arizona is home to thousands of horses just like Harvey, and hundreds of trails for all kinds of riders, whether you're an adventurous novice or a seasoned pro. What follows are 12 of our favorites, sorted by seasons.

**OPPOSITE:** Lori Bridwell of Lorill Equestrian leads a group of riders west of Needle Rock in Scottsdale. PHOTOGRAPH BY KEN AKERS

**BELOW:** Ponderosa pines and cattails frame a mirror-like Hulsey Lake at the foot of Escudilla Mountain. PHOTOGRAPH BY RANDY PRENTICE



### SPRING

#### H.L. Canyon Trail *Clifton*

Old alligator junipers and dense stands of ponderosa pine line this 5-mile loop trail, which riders pick up about 2 miles north of Granville Campground at either Sardine Saddle or H.L. Saddle. Although the elevation change is minimal — 100 feet from the trail's original 7,200-foot starting point — the scenery makes this trot worth it. Riders amble across natural springs, the remnants of a rock corral and an old cabin before the day is done. The trail is typically open from April through November, which means mild-weather-loving wildlife — ground squirrels, chipmunks and a slew of loud-mouthed warblers — will be out in full force.

**Directions:** From Clifton, take U.S. Route 191 north for 23 miles. The Sardine Saddle trailhead is on the east side of the road.

**Information:** Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, 520-687-8600 or [www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf).

#### Kellner Canyon Trail *Globe*

This moderately difficult trail makes a rapid descent into a narrow canyon before it ascends again along the ridge beyond Kellner Canyon Spring, approximately a half-mile down the trail. The 4.8-mile run gains nearly 2,000 feet in elevation when all's said and done, and although riders and their horses should focus on safe passage, pay special attention, too, to decades-old cabins that dot the trail, as well as sweeping views of the valley below. Kellner Canyon Trail is open spring through fall.

**Directions:** From Globe, drive south on Forest Road 112 for approximately 3.5 miles to Forest Road 55. Turn southwest and travel on FR 55 to its junction with Forest Road 651. Follow FR 651 to the Kellner trailhead on the north side of the road.

**Information:** Tonto National Forest, 928-402-6200 or [www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto).

#### Secret Canyon Trail *Sedona*

As far as secrets go, Sedona's Secret Canyon Trail isn't one that was well kept. The 5.5-mile trail is a favorite among adventurers looking to spend some quality time in the Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness. The wide, mostly flat trail offers stunning views of the canyon, but limited relief from the late-spring and early summer heat. But as it progresses closer to Secret Canyon — at approximately 2 miles — the trail drops to cross a drainage, and oak and ponderosa pines emerge to offer shady sanctuary. At mile 5, the trail turns sharply, leading to ravines and a series of pools in the rocky streambed.

**Directions:** From Sedona, drive west on State Route 89A to Dry Creek Road. Turn right (north) and drive 2 miles to Forest Road 152. Approximately 3 miles up the road, a two-track road will emerge on the west side, where you'll find the trailhead sign.

**Information:** Coconino National Forest, 928-282-4119 or [redrockcountry.org](http://redrockcountry.org).



### SUMMER

#### North Kaibab Trail *Grand Canyon*

The only North Rim trail leading to the Colorado River, the North Kaibab winds for 14 miles through Roaring Springs and Bright Angel, and meanders past Phantom Ranch and the Supai Tunnel. It switches back countless times as it descends along Roaring Springs Canyon, to the Kaibab suspension bridge and the mighty river. Several equine-friendly campgrounds are near the trail, and photo opportunities abound, from Manzanita Creek to Ribbon Falls. This is, after all, the Grand Canyon.

**Directions:** From the Grand Canyon's North Rim entrance, travel south along North Rim Drive to the North Kaibab trailhead.

**Information:** Grand Canyon National Park, 928-638-7888 or [nps.gov/grca](http://nps.gov/grca).

#### Sunset Trail *Flagstaff*

A camera is required when riding along Flagstaff's Sunset Trail. The easy 4-mile path leads to the eastern edge of Mount Elden's summit plateau, affording views of the Painted Desert, the San Francisco Peaks, Sunset Crater and the Bonito Lava Flow along the way. What's more, plenty of mule deer and elk make their homes in the surrounding wilderness. Riders might even spot an emboldened black bear, although most won't venture onto the trail, preferring instead to stay secreted away in forest shadows. At its highest points, the trail crosses a stretch of land that was devastated by wildfire during the late 1970s, but the forest is recovering, with aspen and Gambel oak trees taking hold.

**Directions:** Drive north from Flagstaff on U.S. Route 180 to Forest Road 420 (Schultz Pass Road). Drive 6 miles east on FR 420 to the trailhead at a parking lot on the south side of the road.

**Information:** Coconino National Forest, 928-526-0866 or [www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino).

 **Escudilla National Recreation Trail** *Alpine*

Not all trails are created equal. There are some so spectacular that Congress recognizes them as National Recreation Trails, and Escudilla National Recreation Trail is one of them. Tucked within the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, the easy trail stretches out across 3 miles of spruce, fir and aspen groves that alternate with vast expanses of open meadow. Views of the San Francisco Peaks abound, as do plenty of panoramic views of the Blue Range Primitive Area, the Gila Wilderness, Mount Graham and the Pinaleno Mountains. If you decide to ride all the way to the summit, park your horse and climb the Forest Service fire tower to absorb the views from a higher vantage point.

**Directions:** Drive 5.5 miles north from Alpine on U.S. Route 191 to Forest Road 56. Turn right (north) onto FR 56 and follow it 3.6 miles to Terry Flat. Take the left fork past Tool Box Draw for a half-mile to the trailhead.

**Information:** Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, 928-333-4372 or [www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf).

**FALL**

 **Old Military Trail** *Chino Valley*

So named because of its former use near a base of operations during the Hualapai War, the Old Military Trail is, in essence, a military supply road. Although Camp Hualapai was abandoned in 1873, the road remains and follows a rolling course through a mountain pass, the Pine Creek Drainage, canyons, meadows, Happy Camp and private lands (be sure to close gates behind you and leave the land as you

found it). Because the Old Military Trail puts Arizona history underfoot, riders will want to take their time along this scenic, moderately difficult trek.

**Directions:** From Prescott, go north on Williamson Valley Road (Forest Road 6) for 38 miles to the junction with Forest Road 95. Turn left (west) onto FR 95 and drive about 1.5 miles. The trailhead lies 0.2 miles east of the Walnut Creek Station.

**Information:** Prescott National Forest, 928-777-2200 or [www.fs.fed.us/r3/prescott](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/prescott).

 **Pine Mountain Trail** *near Camp Verde*

Although it's just 1.2 miles long, this trail doesn't lack in awe-inspiring sights. After the west side of Pine Mountain burned in a 1989 wildfire, many of the trees that flanked it were lost. Now, saddle-mounted explorers can investigate the unique changes in vegetation that resulted, including a variety of native grasses. As the trail approaches the Verde Rim, riders can breathe in sweeping views to the north and northeast, as well as parts of the Bishop Creek drainage. Take care with horse selection, though. The first part of the trail is exceedingly steep and includes a challenging switchback over the Cloverleaf Junction.

**Directions:** From Phoenix, drive north on Interstate 17 to Exit 268, Dugas Road (Forest Road 68). Take FR 68 southeast for 18 miles to the trailhead for Nelson Trail (number 159) at the edge of the Pine Mountain Wilderness.

**Information:** Prescott National Forest, 928-567-4121 or [www.fs.fed.us/r3/prescott](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/prescott).

 **Walker Basin Trail** *Patagonia*

Not to be confused with a trail by the same name in Sedona, the Walker Basin Trail in Patagonia is a portal to the southeastern portion of the Santa Rita Mountains. Rising from verdant Walker Basin, the trail climbs 1,200 feet and offers access to Gardner and Madera canyons, all the while tempting riders to park it for a bit and take in views of Big Casablanca Canyon, Josephine Saddle and Mount Wrightson. Although getting to the trailhead is rough, it's well worth the effort.

**Directions:** From Patagonia, go north on 1st Avenue for 2.5 miles to Forest Road 72 and turn left (north). Continue on FR 72 for 4 or 5 miles to the Forest Road 72A junction and turn left (west). A four-wheel-drive vehicle is recommended for this drive.

**Information:** Coronado National Forest, 520-281-2296 or [www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado).

▶ A cowboy and his horse are silhouetted against the autumn leaves near Greer. PHOTOGRAPH BY DON B. STEVENSON

**WINTER**

 **Verde River Sheep Bridge Trail** *Cave Creek*

In 1943, the Flagstaff Sheep Co. decided that its sheep were in danger. They needed a bridge to cross the Verde River, so the company constructed one. More than 40 years later, the bridge began to crumble, so a new one was built to replace it. Now, although sheep ranching has long been gone from the area, the bridge provides hikers and riders access to the Mazatzal Wilderness. Just 21 miles north of Cave Creek, the trail is close enough to metro Phoenix that urbanites can venture there for a quick weekend getaway, but far enough away to feel exhilarating.

**Directions:** From Cave Creek, drive east on Cave Creek Road toward Bartlett Reservoir, turning left onto Forest Road 24 (Seven Springs Road). Drive north on FR 24 to Bloody Basin Road (Forest Road 269) and continue to the trailhead at the road's end.

**Information:** Tonto National Forest, 480-595-3300 or [www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto).

 **Spur Cross Trail** *near Clifton*

If you're into rocks, the Spur Cross Trail will tickle your fancy. Its highlight is a small cave, approximately 4 miles down in the bluffs near the ridgeline. Given the smoke-stained ceiling, experts theorize that the cave sheltered ancient people. Another draw is the amazing vegetation that dots the rocky trail — Arizona cypress, sycamore and white oak trees. Riders should carry plenty of water, because any water along the trail needs treatment before drinking.

**Directions:** From Clifton, take U.S. Route 191 north for 21 miles. The trail is on the west side of the highway, about a mile north of Granville Campground.

**Information:** Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, 928-687-8600 or [www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf).

 **Towel Creek Trail** *Camp Verde*

Towel Creek Trail stands out among its peers, both for its history as a cattle trail and its proximity to the Verde River. In fact, cowboys still use the trail to move their herds. The plethora of flora along the trail — from manzanita and cliffrose to hackberries, cottonwoods, junipers and willows — also makes it a standout. The trail is a great one for camping, or for exploring during a day-trip trail ride. This is Coconino National Forest land at its finest, complete with a bovine friend or two for company.

**Directions:** From Camp Verde, drive east on State Route 260 for 6 miles to Forest Road 708. Turn right (southeast) onto FR 708 and travel 9 miles to the trailhead, which is near Needle Rock.

**Information:** Coconino National Forest, [redrockcountry.org](http://redrockcountry.org) or 928-282-4119. ■

For more information on trail riding in Arizona, call 866-275-5816 or visit [arizonaguide.com](http://arizonaguide.com).

▶ Sam Udall leads Julie Koeth (in pink) and friends along a ridge at the X Diamond Ranch near Greer. PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN BECKETT





## SONOITA-PATAGONIA DRIVE

**Straight out of a Hollywood movie, literally, this winding road in Southern Arizona is fringed with vineyards, champagne-colored grasses and wildflowers galore.**

BY KERIDWEN CORNELIUS  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY GEORGE STOCKING

On-screen, the Sonoita-Patagonia area has doubled as Oklahoma (*Oklahoma!*), Texas (*Red River*) and ancient Israel (*David and Bathsheba*). People claim it looks like Montana,

and when you catch glimpses of the vineyards and cypresses, you might reach unconsciously for your Italian phrasebook. But with its pastoral landscapes dotted with pygmy forest and crumbling ghost towns, one thing this region doesn't resemble is the typical coffee-table images of Arizona.

This 60-mile drive begins in Sonoita, headquarters of Southern Arizona's wine country, where you can stock up on a bottle of Zinfandel or Syrah before venturing south on State Route 83. The winding road is fringed with vineyards, champagne-colored grasses and wildflowers as yellow as the signs warning of cattle crossings and hairpin turns. At 14 miles, one of these turns reveals a jaw-dropping pass where cottonwoods and greenery ribbon through the fields, backdropped by blue mountains.

But don't be so distracted by the scenery that you miss the turnoff less than a mile later. When you see a sign pointing left to Parker Canyon Lake, go straight instead, down Canelo Pass Road, a.k.a. Forest Road 799.

The well-maintained dirt road (suitable for a regular passenger car) winds through a pygmy forest of juniper, oak and maroon-branched manzanita.

At 19 miles, the view opens to reveal the San Rafael Valley — a wide expanse where forest laps up to a savannah smeared with wildflowers. Cottonwoods stand like pins on a map marking the flow of the Santa Cruz River, which trickles from the Patagonia Mountains and Canelo Hills, crossing your path a few times.

Not to toot our own horn, but when Hollywood producer Arthur Hornblow saw a photo of the San Rafael Valley in *Arizona Highways*, he was inspired to set his next film, *Oklahoma!*, here amid the chest-high, windblown grasses. Then, like now, only a few ranches dotted the land, whereas the Sooner State was too developed to play the role of turn-of-the-century Oklahoma.

The valley has also starred in

*McLintock!*, with John Wayne (the scenery must inspire exclamation points), *Tom Horn*, with Steve McQueen, and *Wild Rovers*, with William Holden and Ryan O'Neal.

The road zigzags, but keep following the signs toward Lochiel, a tiny hamlet that spent previous lives as a border crossing point and smelter site for neighboring mines.

Just past Lochiel, a 25-foot-tall cross commemorates Franciscan friar Fray Marcos de Niza, who entered Arizona on April 12, 1539, to become the first European west of the Rockies.

Four miles later, turn left down a somewhat rough road (still suitable for most passenger vehicles) toward the ghost town of Duquesne, pronounced du-CANE. The historic mining outpost consists of five decaying buildings circa the late 1800s, one of which was the home of George Westinghouse, of the electric company family. Shortly after, you'll pass the blink-and-you-miss-it ex-mining town of Washington Camp. I blinked.

Two miles later, turn right toward Patagonia onto Forest Road 49, which twizzles through the oaks and sycamores of Coronado National Forest to emerge at views of mauve and coral mountains.

You can side-trip to Harshaw, a shadow of a silver-mining boomtown hit hard in the 1880s by a thunderstorm, a fire and a decrease in ore quality. Tellingly, its main attraction is now a cemetery.

The drive ends in lush and charming Patagonia, where you can refuel with pizza at Velvet Elvis or picnic at the Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve, a Nature Conservancy-owned bastion for 300 bird species, including gray hawks, green kingfishers and violet-crowned hummingbirds. As you follow the trail along the green and fluttering riverbank, you'll feel like you're in yet another world. Or maybe on a Hollywood movie set.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** For more scenic drives, pick up a copy of our book, *The Back Roads*. Now in its fifth edition, the book (\$19.95) features 40 of the state's most scenic drives. To order a copy, call 800-543-5432 or visit [arizonahighways.com](http://arizonahighways.com).



**ABOVE:** It's easy to see why the sparsely populated San Rafael Valley doubled as the Sooner State in the 1955 film *Oklahoma!*.

**LEFT:** Backlit grass looks like fiber-optics in the pastoral San Rafael Valley, south of Sonoita.



## tour guide

Note: Mileages are approximate.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Tucson, drive east on Interstate 10 to State Route 83 (Exit 281). Continue 27 miles south to Sonoita. Proceed about 15 more miles, and veer right onto Canelo Pass Road (Forest Road 799). At 24 miles, take Forest Road 58 south (left) and follow the signs toward Lochiel. Leaving Lochiel the road becomes Forest Road 61. After 4 miles, turn left toward Duquesne. Two miles later, turn right onto Forest Road 49 toward Patagonia and Harshaw. The 60-mile drive ends in Patagonia.

**VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS:** None

**INFORMATION:** Sonoita/Patagonia visitors center, 888-794-0060 or [patagoniaaz.com](http://patagoniaaz.com).

**511** Travelers in Arizona can visit [az511.gov](http://az511.gov) or dial 511 to get information on road closures, construction, delays, weather and more. ■



## BADGER SPRINGS TRAIL

Sightseeing and solitude are the highlights of this hike in the Agua Fria National Monument. The archaeology is an unexpected bonus.

BY ROBERT STIEVE

There are a couple of things you should know about the Badger Springs Trail. 1) Badgers aren't among the mammals you're likely to see — your chances of seeing the trail's namesake are about as good as they are at the Tempe Music Festival. 2) Agua Fria, a Spanish phrase

meaning “cold water,” is the name of the river you'll be following, but the river is usually just a riverbed, and it's almost never cold. Here's another thing: If you're a little squeamish about rattlesnakes, you might want to sit this one out — the desert sun stirs up Mohave Greens and other rattlers as early as February. (Note to reader: This is our *February* issue, so beware.)

Disclaimers notwithstanding, the Badger Springs Trail is one of Arizona's best, especially in the spring. Archaeology, ecology, history, spectacular scenery, peace and quiet are the selling points of this hike, which winds through the heart of the Agua Fria National Monument, a 71,000-acre parcel of high mesa grassland established in 2000. Unlike other federal parklands, this one offers a respite — if the Grand Canyon is Grand Central, Agua Fria is a bus stop on a deserted stretch of Route 66.

Indeed, very few people have ever been to

the monument. Millions, however, drive by it every year. The trailhead, which is within shouting distance of the Sunset Viewpoint Rest Area, is located just off of Interstate 17 at the Badger Springs Exit. From the freeway, it's a short drive — less than a mile — down a forest road to the trailhead. That brings up another thing. The Badger Springs Trail isn't really a trail. It's more of a route. From the “trailhead,” you'll follow a traditional path for a few hundred yards down to the river. After that, the trail is whatever route you choose to take along the river.

This time of year, the river will be more substantial. Other times, it'll be nothing but a series of pools. Either way, what you'll quickly realize is that this hike is slow-going. That's because you'll be bushwhacking through a combination of soft sand (imagine walking on the beach) and an endless stream of boulders, ranging in size from large pumpkins to Volkswagen Beetles. There's a lot of up and down and around and around on this hike, which makes it hard to gauge distance. Although the river runs for several miles to Black Canyon City, it's best to hike for an hour or two, and then retrace your steps.

Along the way, you'll experience one of Arizona's most beautiful riparian corridors, which is home to cottonwoods, sycamores, willows, coyotes, bobcats, antelope, native fish and 177 bird species. The list goes on, but the monument wasn't established because of Mother Nature. It was created to protect one of the most significant systems of prehistoric sites in the Southwest — from A.D. 1250 to 1450, a people known as the Perry Mesa Tradition inhabited this Precambrian canyon.

As you make your way downstream, keep your eyes peeled for their cliff dwellings and petroglyphs, as well as the old pipeline left over from the Richinbar Mine — interestingly, the rusted steel feels more like a museum piece than an eyesore. Of course, more than anything, you'll want to keep your eyes peeled for snakes. It is February, after all. ■

Badger Springs Trail offers scenic vistas that include views of the Agua Fria River (opposite) and Lousy Canyon (above).

### trail guide

**LENGTH:** Varies, depending on how far downstream you're willing to hike.

**DIFFICULTY:** Moderate

**ELEVATION:** 2,150 (along the river) to 4,600 feet (in the northern hills)

**DIRECTIONS:** From Phoenix, take Interstate 17 north for approximately 40 miles to the Badger Springs Exit (256) and turn right. Cross the gravel parking lot to Forest Road 9001 and continue for .75 miles to the trailhead.

**INFORMATION:** Bureau of Land Management, 623-580-5500 or blm.gov/az.

#### LEAVE NO TRACE ETHICS:

- Plan ahead and be prepared.
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
- Dispose of waste properly and pack out your trash.
- Leave what you find.
- Respect wildlife and minimize impact.
- Be considerate of others.



where  
is this?

## On the Edge

PHOTOGRAPH BY KERRICK JAMES

"Historic fixer-upper; sun-dappled and airy," the real estate ad might read. At least Apache attacks aren't an issue like they were for the residents who abandoned this area in the 1860s. The settlement was briefly resurrected after the discovery of a literal bonanza in the 1880s, becoming a booming supply community for a trio of nearby towns. But despite its capital name, this place eventually faded into obscurity. Now all that's left are shafts, mining buildings and ruins. But the prospects are unbeatable.



**Win a collection of our most popular books!** To enter, correctly identify the location featured above and e-mail your answer to [editor@arizonahighways.com](mailto:editor@arizonahighways.com) — type "Where Is This?" in the subject line. Entries can also be sent to 2039 W. Lewis Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85009. Please include your name, address and phone number. One winner will be chosen in a random drawing of qualified entries. Entries must be postmarked by February 15, 2009. Only the winner will be notified. The correct answer will be posted in our April issue and online at [arizonahighways.com](http://arizonahighways.com) beginning March 1.

December 2008 Answer: Wheeler Park in Flagstaff. Congratulations to our winner, Gertraud Flechsenhar of Hamburg, Germany.



### Discover the Universe

from an island in the sky. Dive into the mysteries of the cosmos at the University of Arizona's Mount Lemmon SkyCenter in the Santa Catalina Mountains. Take part in an evening stargazing program to

hunt for planets, nebulae, galaxies, and other surprises in the sky. Treasured memories and magical moments await you behind every star. Come discover new horizons and unexpected adventure on your getaway to Tucson.

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